**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

The present listing of claims is as follows:

1. (Original) Polycrystalline alumina components with an additive of at least 0.001 wt-% $ZrO_2$ and optionally containing MgO in a concentration of at most 0.3 wt-% characterized in that the alumina contains at most 0.5 wt-% $ZrO_2$ as an additive and has an average crystal size $\leq 2$ μm, and a relative density higher than 99.95% with a real in-line transmission RIT $\geq 30\%$ measured over an angular aperture of at most 0.5° at a sample thickness of 0.8 mm and with a monochromatic wavelength of light λ.

2. (Original) Polycrystalline alumina components according to claim 1, characterized in that the average crystal size is $\leq 1$ μm and the real in-line transmission RIT is at least 40%.

3. (Original) Polycrystalline alumina components according to claim 1, characterized in that the $ZrO_2$ additive is in a concentration from 0.1 wt-% to 0.3 wt-%, inclusive.

4. (Original) Discharge lamp characterized in that the lamp is provided with a discharge tube having a wall of a ceramic as claimed in claim 1.

5. (Original) Lamp according to claim 4 characterized in that the discharge tube has an ionisable filling containing a metal halide.

6. (Original) Method for forming a polycrystalline alumina component as claimed in claim 1 characterized in that the process includes the steps of

preparing a slurry of corundum power with a mean grain size $\leq 0.2$ μm,

adding a dopant, selected from zirconia and a zirconium containing precursor,

casting the slurry in a mould, drying and sintering of the moulded body thus formed, and

performing a HIP treatment at a temperature of at least 1150° C for at least 2 hours.

7. (Original) Method according to claim 6, wherein the dopant is added as finely grained $ZrO_2$.

8. (Original) Method according to claim 6, wherein the finely grained $ZrO_2$ dopant has an average particle size of at most 100 nm.

9. (Original) Method according to claim 6, wherein after the addition of the zirconia dopant the prepared slurry is slip cast in a mould.

10. (Original) Method according to claim 6, wherein after the addition of the zirconia dopant the prepared slurry is gel cast in a mould.